ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVE
ILLINOIS AML RECLAMATION SITE

Project Title: Northern Illinois Mine Group

Mine Name: B. F. Berry Coal Company

I. Location and Ownership of AML Project Site (see attached map)

Putnam	County/Township 32N Range 1W Section 11
Standard	Name of Nearest Town and
0.1	(miles) Distance from Project
Spring Valley (7.5')	U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
IL-116	National Inventory Problem Area Number
26.1	Acreage of Problem Site
X	Private Ownership _____ Public Ownership
If public, provide name _____	

II. Problem Information:

A. Physical Description of AML Problem: (acreages of refuse, dimensions of shafts, miles of road, pH of drainage, important features, etc., as appropriate.)

This site contains 18.6 acres of severely eroded, mounded gob refuse, a 5.5 acre tipple site with scattered debris and open foundations, a partially open well and 2.0 acres which have been disturbed due to the heavy run-off and subsequent sedimentation. Drainage and refuse samples are shown in Attachment I.

B. Existing Conditions/Impacts and Environmental Setting: (human impacts, environmental impacts, threatened or endangered species, regional considerations, etc.)

This site is located on the southwest edge of Standard (pop. 265). The city has regularly experienced problems with clogged drainageways and storm sewers due to the run-off and sediment load, causing flooded basements and inundated properties during high rainfall. Adjacent farmground also receives heavy sediment loads due to erosion of the 140-foot high gob pile. Unauthorized dumping of trash in the past has prompted Illinois E.P.A. intervention to require clean up by the town. There is little vegetation on the piles. There are no natural wetlands on the site or no known threatened or endangered species. The site is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat; however, no suitable habitat exists on the site.

C. Environmental Impact Statement - Generic Categories (also see attached Statement of Coverage).

Environmental Impacts of this project are discussed in Sections 3.5.4 (unstable materials) and 3.5.8 (Abandoned Structures, Machinery, and Equipment) of the Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM-EIS-11). Reclamation of such is described in Sections 4.3.4 and 4.3.8.

III. Need for Project: (from Section 403 of SMCRA)

_____ Priority 1. protection of public health, safety, general welfare, and property from extreme danger.

__X__ Priority 2. protection of public health, safety, and general welfare from adverse effects.

__X__ Priority 3. restoration of land and water resources, the environment, soil, water, woodland, fish, wildlife, agriclutural and recreational resources.

_____ Priority 4. research and demonstration.

IV. Proposed Action:

A. Description of proposed reclamation plan:

This site will be reclaimed by burial of the tipple area foundations and other debris with material from the refuse pile. The entire pile will be reduced in grade and spread, contoured for proper drainage control, limed, fertilized, seeded and mulched. Because the pile consists mostly of burned longwall refuse, there should be no need for additional soil cover. On-site drainageways will be cleared and sediment traps placed within to prevent future off-site sedimentation.

B. Impacts of Action:

This action will eliminate the potential hazards of the site associated with the abandoned tipple structures and other debris. Also, problems within the town of Standard that are caused by the heavy sediment load from the site will be alleviated. General improvements in roadside aesthetics, wildlife habitat and land use capability will also occur. No negative impacts will result from this action.

V. State and Federal Agencies Consulted:

State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Department of Conservation - Planning Division
Office of Surface Mining - State Field Office

VI. Staff: (Names and organizational identity of preparers)

Tim Hickmann, Program Planner, Illinois Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council.

Steve Jenkusky, Supervisor of Planning, Illinois Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council.

VII. References:

Bowles, M.L. ed. 1981. Threatened and Endangered Species of Illinois. Ill. Dept. of Cons., 189 pp. and appendices.

Nawrot, J.R. et al. 1977. Problem Sites: Lands Affected by Undergrouned Mining for Coal in Illinois. Ill. Inst. for Env. Quality, 556 pp.

VIII. Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Grant Application:

Statement of Coverage by Existing Environmental Impact Statement

The Illinois Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council has evaluated the proposed abandoned mine land reclamation project to determine whether the potential individual and cumulative impacts on the human environment (as provided in Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) are covered adequately by the environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement titled "Approval of State and Indian Reclamation Program Grant Under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977" (OSM-EIS-11, November 1983). This evaluation leads the applicant to conclude that the proposed abandoned mine land reclamation project is covered adequately by OSM-EIS-11 and that there are no substantial changes in the proposed action or significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that are not covered by the EIS as provided by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Certified by:	OSM Concurrence:
Signature	Signature
Executive Director	
Title	Title
Nov. 9, 1984	
Date	Date